

TONTOGANY VILLAGE COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES FROM: July 7, 2025

Council called to order in regular session at 7:00 p.m. with Mayor Matthew Shanahan presiding. Opening ceremony: Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, led by Mayor Shanahan. Roll call of members: Brenda Mackey, here; Connie Mehring, here; Mark Smith, here; Robert Bergfeld, here; Lincoln Fox, here; Paul Neal, here. Also present was Fiscal Officer/Utilities Clerk Ryan Harnishfeger. Visitors present: Deputy L. Spangenberg from the Wood County Sheriff's Office. Minutes from the June 16th meeting were approved as submitted.

FINANCE and CLAIMS: A spreadsheet of the current invoices was reviewed and approved by members. Councilwoman Mehring made a motion that these bills be allowed and orders drawn for same. Councilman Bergfeld seconded this motion. All were in favor; motion carried. Copies of the June Bank Reconciliation, Fund Status, Revenue Status, and Appropriation Status reports were given to the mayor and the Finance Committee to review.

Copies of the June incident report were given to everyone to review. Mayor Shanahan and members remarked that there were a lot of incidents listed on the report—33 in all. The mayor commented that there were some issues with the railroad crossings and he had contacted CSX directly, instead of through the sheriff's deputies. Councilman Smith noted that, to be fair, 14 of the 33 incidents listed were "extra patrols" and "premise checks," which are not necessarily indications of anything bad. Councilman Neal asked what prompts extra patrols. Mr. Smith answered that it is when a resident calls in and requests that their property be checked while they are out of town, such as for a vacation trip. The mayor added that they have an online service request you can fill out. Mr. Smith commented that "road hazard" on the incident list could be something as simple as moving something off of the road. Members remarked that there were several medical-related incidents on the report, including cardiac/pain in chest, illness, and a suicide attempt. Mr. Neal noted that all of the extra patrols were at the same address. The mayor explained that that is the requested service of extra checks on a property when a resident goes on vacation. He added that he has used the service and they will come at least twice a day, walk around your property, and check the doors and windows. He explained that on the service request he put in his home address, the dates when he would be gone, if there would be any vehicles left in the driveway, and the names and vehicle description of anyone who he has asked to come to the house while he is away, such as to feed the dog.

Mayor Shanahan asked if there were any questions for Deputy Spangenberg. Councilman Fox asked about the golf cart inspection at 18550 Main Street on the incidents list, if a deputy came out a looked at the golf cart. The deputy responded that there is a list of requirements online for a golf cart to be street-worthy, things such as headlights, break lights, tail lights, turn signals, windshield, horn, rearview mirror, seatbelts, etc. If your golf cart meets those requirements, you can ask for a deputy to come out and inspect it. Golf carts that pass inspection will be authorized to purchase a title and registration and plates to make it legal for operating on streets. Mayor Shanahan wondered if the "golf cart" mentioned on Main Street was actually the go kart downtown. The deputy responded that they do not do inspections on off-road four wheelers, ATVs, or UTVs, only golf carts. The mayor commented that we had what looked like a little homemade go kart, and he had spoken with a deputy about it one day when it was going down a sidewalk. Councilman Bergfeld asked about the camper on Broad Street with an expired plate. The mayor responded that he saw the people who were moving out loading up the camper and it pulled out of town today. Ms. Mackey asked if the trailer is gone. The mayor answered that the trailer is still there. The mayor asked the deputy if he had anything for Council before he left. He just inquired about how fireworks went. The mayor and members let him know there were no problems. The mayor told him we will be having special fireworks as part of the village's 150th Celebration, and we will have all of the proper permits for it. Councilman Neal asked what the two railroad items were on the incident list. The deputy answered that it would typically be a problem such

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as with crossing arms or a train blocking the intersection. With nothing more to discuss, Mayor Shanahan thanked Deputy Spangenberg and he left the meeting.

Fiscal Officer Harnishfeger reported that there are two upcoming hall rentals, one on Saturday, July 19th and one on Sunday, August 3rd. He asked the mayor and members to let him know if there are any future dates when he should not rent out the hall, but reserve it for 150th events, such as the pancake breakfast on Saturday, August 9th. Councilman Smith asked if we do not have a “red carpet” event coming up that we need to use the hall for. Mayor Shanahan answered that we do and it is on the events calendar in the office. He added that all of the Tontogany officials were given invitations to come to the Tontogany Village Hall on Wednesday evening, July 23, 2025, to watch the premiere of the *Tontogany 150th Celebration Documentary*. He explained that it is a “living history documentary” and an ice cream social event. Twelve out of thirteen who were interviewed for the documentary were invited. The thirteenth person, Rebecca “June” Hofner, regrettably, passed away in January, 2025. The mayor said he was trying to contact her husband, Ray Hofner, to make sure he is invited, but he does not know where he lives and the landline phone number for him is out of service. Councilwoman Mackey suggested that we call Mr. Hofner’s daughter; she said she had her number and offered to call her. The mayor asked her to go ahead and do so and let her know that the family is invited. He asked Ms. Mackey to then let him or Hannah know how many of the family will be coming, so we are sure to have enough ice cream and treats for everyone. The mayor also commented that he reached out today to a local ice cream place and asked them to donate ice cream for the event, and he is waiting to hear back from them.

ZONING: Mayor Shanahan reported that he noticed in the previous meeting’s minutes that Zoning Inspector Johnson had spoken to Council about Habitat for Humanity looking at some empty lots on Wall Street. The mayor said he had a phone conversation with the Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity on Thursday, had them explain to him what they were looking for, and then asked them to put the information in an email and send it to him. The mayor said that today he sent a copy of the email to Village Solicitor Paul Skaff and he also copied Zoning Inspector Johnson, Councilman Smith, and Fiscal Officer Harnishfeger on it. The mayor commented that his gut tells him nothing is going to come of it. Councilman Smith added that there are significant financial hurdles. The mayor explained that, the way the lots are split unevenly and with the east side of one lot in the ditch, presents a problem with what they are wanting to do with the lots. Also, Solicitor Skaff pointed out that surveying and other items would create costs for the current property owners, which the mayor said he didn’t think the owners would be willing to take on. The mayor said he had asked the executive director if there could be any consideration of just buying the property as it is and putting one house on it instead of two. His reply was, “No.” Mr. Smith commented that the cost to the property owner to get things straightened out for Habitat for Humanity’s wishes would be about \$8,000 to \$10,000. The mayor commented that the executive director had said they were doing something similar in Rudolph, Ohio. The mayor said that Rudolph does not have a council or mayor, but is managed by the township trustees. He said he was thinking of reaching out to a trustee and asking them what their experience is and what their process was for getting something set up for Habitat for Humanity. Mr. Smith commented that the property on Wall Street is a special situation with the easement and the ditch; Habitat for Humanity is essentially wanting to squeeze two houses onto what would generally be considered one lot. He added that it will probably take a special buyer to make that property work. The mayor said that the executive director was all ready to fill out an application for a variance, but he advised him to hold off on spending the \$200 fee for that until we find out for sure if it is actually feasible. Councilwoman Mackey asked if the current owner had not purchased the property with the intention of putting one home on it. The mayor responded that they had; they bought it with the intention of putting a single-story crawl space home on it, but they couldn’t find any builder to get within their price range; everything was over \$200,000. So, they purchased a home in Toledo and put the property on Wall Street up for sale.

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Mayor Shanahan reported that he noticed some zoning infractions discussed in the previous meeting's minutes, regarding things like vehicles. He said he spoke with Councilman Smith about it and doesn't think Zoning Inspector Johnson has sent any letters out to the violators yet. The mayor said he would follow up with Mr. Johnson and ask him to send those letters out.

UTILITIES: Utilities Clerk Harnishfeger provided everyone with copies of a sheet of information about Muni-Link utility billing software and its pricing, received by email from Muni-Link Senior Consultant Mac Rosenbaum. Mr. Harnishfeger reported that on Tuesday, July 1st, he had participated in a 1.5-hour Webex demonstration of the Muni-Link solution, and that he was very impressed with it. He said it was a very well-designed utility billing software with a user-friendly interface. As for its history, he reported that Muni-Link was created 13 years ago in 2012 and they currently serve over 550 utilities in more than 40 states, as well as some international clients. Ohio is their number-two customer with 120 entities using Muni-Link. Their laser-focus on municipal utility billing and customer information systems has made them experts on those two functions, while their software is designed to be able to integrate to other providers' software, such as the UAN accounting package used by most of their Ohio clients. Mr. Harnishfeger reported that he specifically asked them what kind of equipment they would recommend to work with Muni-Link, and they replied that, since Muni-Link is a cloud-based software solution, it does not require you to have a server, but it can be accessed with any normal laptop or desktop computer, or even by a tablet or a smartphone. You just need a reliable internet connection. You don't need a lot of hard drive storage space, because all of your files will be on their secure cloud servers, always accessible. Mr. Harnishfeger reported that he was very impressed with the amount of detailed information that is available for each customer's account, making it easy to search and get a report for any criteria on a single account or a specific group of accounts. Also, any documents or photos related to the account, such as disconnection notices, a picture of a meter, or other interactions with the customer are all saved in digital form and attached to the account, making it easy to view the history of a customer in relation to a current issue. Mayor Shanahan asked if Muni-Link provides a handheld scanner for meters. Mr. Harnishfeger answered that they do not. He said, however, that they work with whatever kind of meter reading equipment you have, whether fully automated systems or, like ours, where we have a meter reader who collects meter reads on a physical route. Muni-Link will accept the meter reads collected in our handheld, transmitted in file format by our AutoRead software.

Mr. Harnishfeger reported that Muni-Link is customizable to your billing preferences, so that you can bill with postcards as we do now, or with other paper billing, or with electronic billing, or any combination of these. The demo host said that, from their experience, you could expect about 15 percent of your customers to choose electronic billing by the end of one year, and then up to about 30 percent after several years of using Muni-Link. Mr. Harnishfeger told members that the software has strong reporting capabilities, making it possible to get about any kind of report you would want from the database. It will also do notifications, such as disconnection notices or payment plan agreements, with all of the needed data—name, account number, address, delinquent amount for each type of utility—pulled from the account. Mr. Harnishfeger said he considered Muni-Link to be a complete utility billing software solution that would do anything the Village would want, and more. He added, however, that members would have to get over the "sticker shock" of the price of Muni-Link, compared to what we had been paying for the soon-to-be-discontinued Fundbalance utility software currently in use, but he pointed out that you get a lot more with Muni-Link, which helps to justify the extra cost. He referred members to the price list on the Muni-Link information sheet. He pointed out that there is a one-time cost of \$18,650, billed in two installments, for the initial phase of data conversion, implementation, and training, which is a five-to-seven-month period, about two or three hours a week. Once the initial phase is completed and you are ready to go live, there will then be a monthly fee of \$590, which is the fee for municipalities with 400 or less utility accounts. Muni-Link services clients with anywhere from less than 100 utility accounts to one with over 130,000 utility accounts, and they have pricing tailored to the size of your customer base. The monthly fee covers an unlimited number of users and unlimited user

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support as well as any ongoing enhancements to the software. The support is first-rate; 93% of calls for support are answered almost immediately by a live support technician, and issues are resolved during the call. Enhancements to the software are routinely made at least six times a year, with training webinars offered for free to clients to help them learn to use the enhancements. They take suggestions from all of their clients for adding features to the software. The only other expense you can incur from Muni-Link would be for use of the notifications module, for things like robocalls, texts, or emails to notify your customers of anything you wish. Calls are 6 cents each per minute; texts are 4.5 cents each; and email notifications are \$3 per 1,000 or 0.3 cents each. Mr. Harnishfeger commented that it might be about \$20 or less for a robocall to all of your customers, which wouldn't be bad. Mr. Harnishfeger told members that he did not know any more details about the ERP Pro software offered by Tyler Technologies, except that the rep said it would be \$10,500, by comparison to our previous fee of about \$3,000 per year for Fundbalance. He said he could request a demo of ERP Pro, if Council wished him to do so. He also noted that the five-to-seven-month training period for Muni-Link would mean that the Village will need to hire his replacement for the utilities clerk position before beginning the training period. He commented that, when he came onboard as the replacement for Karen Rader, the Village hired him for a few hours a week to train with Karen for about three months. He said he thought the Village might want to do something similar with his replacement: hire them at first for about three hours a week to take the Muni-Link training, and then have them take over the job when they are fully trained. Councilman Neal commented that this kind of pricing is typical in the software business, because what you are really looking at is the cost of providing seven months of implementation and training in the beginning for a one-time fee of \$18,650, followed by a monthly fee. He pointed out that the monthly fee of \$590 for Muni-Link would add up to \$7,080 in a year, compared to \$10,500 a year for ERP-Pro, and over a few years the savings of the difference in price would pay you back for your initial \$18,650 fee. Councilman Smith commented that he is not scared away by the pricing, because we would be getting a lot for the price, with Muni-Link handling many things for us that would be difficult and expensive to handle on our own, including going through all of the steps needed to process credit card payments and everything else it takes to provide all kinds of security. Councilman Bergfeld added that they would also take care of automatic notifications to customers by telephone and emails. Mr. Neal commented that the larger customer base of Muni-Link means that they will find and correct bugs in the system (which all software companies experience) faster than a company with a smaller customer base. He also suggested that a problem could be that the larger Muni-Link customers would have a larger say in the enhancements of the functionality of the software, compared to a smaller customer like Tontogany. Mr. Smith asked Mr. Harnishfeger how much time he thought he would be able to save on the process of utility billing by using Muni-Link, compared to using our current software. Mr. Harnishfeger answered that he would not know for sure how much time might be saved, until he would actually use the program. He added that it should definitely save some time by having the software do some of the work he now does manually, like preparing disconnection notices and other communications, as well as electronic billing instead of paper billing to some customers. However, there will always be the need for human interaction with the software and it remains to be seen what the real time savings will be. Sometimes we dream big, but reality turns out to be a different picture. He said he asked the gentlemen giving the Muni-Link demo if the software could handle solar net-metering bills for the school, which he now has to do by hand, doing calculations, preparing custom bills, and doing adjustments in Fundbalance to give credit to the school for solar energy put back on our grid, which takes about an hour and a half each billing cycle. The gentlemen said their technicians should be able to make Muni-Link handle these special solar-adjustment bills. Mr. Harnishfeger commented that the Muni-Link software developers have made the program scalable so that any entity at any level can use it with ease; the influence of larger clients does not make the software difficult to use for smaller municipalities. Councilman Fox commented that his question would be, "How to we pay for it?" He suggested that we access money from the general fund and then put a fee onto the customer for the first year to obtain the money to pay back the general fund. He said it would only amount to a fee of \$4.44 each month on

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350 accounts to get back the \$18,650 initial cost. Then, to cover the \$590 per month fee for Muni-Link, it would cost a fee of \$1.69 per month for each of 350 customers. Mr. Harnishfeger responded that you could do it that way if you wanted, but the ordinary way of acquiring enough revenues to support all expenses of your utilities funds (which are called "enterprise" funds because they are like a business) is to adjust your utility rates. Mr. Fox commented that it might be an easier pill for the customer to swallow to charge them a special fee for usage of the utility software, separate from their electric and water costs, like a fuel surcharge fee added onto some service bills. Councilman Bergfeld asked if Muni-Link does electric and water billing, not just water. Mr. Harnishfeger answered that it does. Mr. Fox commented that it will also do trash billing, if we add that sometime down the line. Mr. Neal asked if we currently charge an "enterprise" fee to the customer for use of our \$3,000 utility software. Mr. Harnishfeger answered that the cost is actually about \$2,500 per year for Fundbalance, which is covered within our utility rates pricing to the customers, not a separate fee. He added that Fundbalance is not nearly as sophisticated and feature-rich as Muni-Link. For instance, it is very weak on giving reports of specific information you may wish to pull from it. He said he has had to manually enter amounts into a spreadsheet to calculate data for certain reports that Muni-Link could do on the fly. Mr. Smith asked if we could absorb the cost of switching to Muni-Link with our current utility rates, or if we would need to increase the rates. Mr. Harnishfeger answered that he thinks it is time to increase the rates some anyway, since it has been several years since we adjusted the rates, while Bowling Green customarily raises their rates to us about every year, meaning our utility revenues have been decreasing year by year. We need to get with Bowling Green to find out exactly where their rates have gone and then adjust our water and electric rates accordingly. Mr. Smith commented that we did that a couple of years ago when we noticed we were actually kind of in the red. Mr. Harnishfeger replied that we had let it go too long and then we had to raise rates 20% all of a sudden. Mayor Shanahan recalled that we also sent out letters to customers explaining the need for the rate increase. Mr. Smith suggested that now we could review our rates, including allowing for the cost of moving to Muni-Link, and consider it a cost of doing business. He commented that the next utilities clerk will probably enjoy more automation of utility billing tasks in the future with Muni-Link. Mr. Neal commented that the concept of having a supplier that has the staff and the expertise and the built-in day-to-day support that Muni-Link has can be a buffer to help us in accommodating one or two new employees and not having a catastrophe trying to fine tune things ourselves. Mr. Smith remarked that he is pleased with what Muni-Link is offering, especially with all of the support and everything else they offer. He added that he is pleased with the idea that we could quickly do robocalls or text messages for notifications, such as a boil advisory, which would be better than having Mr. Johnson go out and tape notices to doors. He said he suspected that you would be able to choose addresses within a circle on a map and have Muni-Link send notices to just the customers in that area. Other members agreed that the ability to do quick voice, text, and email notifications with Muni-Link would be a plus that could save the town time, physical work, and money, while serving the public with instant alerts. Mr. Neal commented that, through our relationship with Muni-Link, no matter what we want to do in the future, such as working with new technologies that are arriving on the scene, we will be able to look to Muni-Link as a resource to help us and to put us in touch with other municipalities who have already begun to use those new technologies, so we can talk with them and replicate what they are doing. Mr. Smith commented that one of these days we will get away from touch-read meters and have all radio-read meters with no need to have a meter reader go around in all kinds of weather to get the meter readings. Mr. Bergfeld asked when we should do job postings for the utilities clerk and the fiscal officer positions. The mayor replied that we should do it any time. Mr. Bergfeld asked how we should go about it, and he remarked that he didn't think putting an ad in the paper is a good way anymore. The mayor asked Mr. Harnishfeger if he had had a chance to work on job descriptions. Mr. Harnishfeger answered that he started on it, but got sidetracked with extra work on entering all meter readings by hand into the billing software, due to the handheld dying on us. Mr. Smith commented that when the job descriptions are ready, we will post the jobs on the website. The mayor added that we don't want to post the jobs before we are ready to sit down and share the job

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descriptions with job applicants. Mr. Harnishfeger asked if Council was looking for a total job description or what. Mr. Bergfeld suggested a description of general responsibilities for each job. The mayor commented that it is a loaded question because Mr. Harnishfeger does more than one job. He suggested that when Mr. Harnishfeger submits the job descriptions to Council, then they can look at them and decide if they want the jobs to be done by two people or just one person, and also look at any resulting needs for changes in salary for the positions. Mr. Smith suggested that the utilities job could be done remotely, since it is in the cloud. Mr. Fox and Mr. Bergfeld responded that they thought we need to have someone in the office at least part of the time. The mayor commented that we could mandate a certain number of hours in the office at times when we know there may be customer interaction. Mr. Smith suggested that, if we hire two people, each of those two employees could spend two different days in the office per week. The mayor commented that the use of Muni-Link, through automation, may cause a decrease in the number of one-on-one interactions with customers; however, there will always be a certain amount of customers who will require personal attention. Mr. Harnishfeger responded that one strong point of Muni-Link is their Customer Portal, where your utility customers can go online and check their account status, set up payment methods, make payments, etc. Mr. Fox asked if Muni-Link sends to collections, or reports to a credit bureau, utility customers who have been disconnected due to a delinquent account and who still have a past due balance. Mr. Harnishfeger responded that they do not. He said that Muni-Link will alert you to delinquent customers and will assist you in creating disconnection notices and payment plan agreements, but, if a customer defaults, it is up to you to pursue payment from them. The mayor added that we have seen a positive response to our disconnection notices, with customers either paying the delinquent amount or getting on a payment plan to avoid being shut off. Mr. Fox asked if checks and other payments are processed by Muni-Link. Mr. Harnishfeger answered that we would still process all checks, money orders, or cash payments; Muni-Link would handle electronic payments, which would be processed and sent to the bank in batches, rather than just one payment at a time. (We would still need to download receipt reports for the batches of electronic payments they process.) Mr. Neal commented that one disadvantage of having more automation is that it follows built-in rules and, if you want to make exceptions to those rules, the software developer may charge a high price to implement your exception. Mr. Neal passed out copies of a *Tontogany Village Utility Billing Project Task Schedule* that he said he and Mr. Harnishfeger had worked on, listing many of the tasks that need to be done along the way toward accomplishing the update of utilities hardware, software, and personnel. He said that the intended purpose of the *Task Schedule* is to list all tasks, major or minor, and then decide on a schedule for when each task should be completed between now and December 2026, marked on the chart to the right of the task list. He noted that we just learned tonight that the new utilities clerk will need to be hired before the Muni-Link training begins, so that is an example of how the *Task Schedule* chart will help us make adjustments to keep on track in our scheduling efforts. He added that there will probably be more things like this that will reveal the need for scheduling adjustments along the way. He said that we need to figure out which tasks need to be done as a prerequisite to other tasks. He said the current list is a result of two meetings with Mr. Harnishfeger, but more tasks and scheduling decisions will be added to the list as time goes along and more information is uncovered at council meetings, etc. Mr. Neal told the mayor and members that Councilman Fox, a member of the Utilities Committee, has decided to work with him and Mr. Harnishfeger on this. Mr. Neal invited Councilwoman Mehring to join them as well, since she is also on the Utilities Committee. He also welcomed any input from other members.

STREETS and ALLEYS: Councilwoman Mehring reported that the holes in Broad Street that we talked about previously have still not been fixed. Mayor Shanahan asked if we had reached out to Morlock Asphalt about that yet. Councilman Smith answered that he has not done that yet, but he took note of it. The mayor commented that we had asked Isaac to fix the pothole at the Broad Street entrance to the Post Office.

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Councilman Fox reported that the stop sign at the corner of the alley and Main Street, between Tontogany Creek Road and Broad Street, still needs to be replaced because it is faded. Mayor Shanahan added that there is also a street sign that is bent over and needs a new hole dug for it, so it can stand up straight. The mayor said he would say something to Isaac and let him know we want these fixed before Togany Fest.

SIDEWALKS and TREES: Councilman Smith reported that he got an estimate from Abe Rowe. He said he came out today and looked at the walnut tree in front of the funeral home, and then he went and looked at the dead tree on Tontogany Creek Road by Scott Coon's place. He said that Mr. Rowe's advice regarding the dead tree on Tontogany Creek Road was that we are better off just trimming off the dead parts that are a danger, getting it to a safe level, and just leaving the trunk where it is. Mr. Smith reported that Mr. Rowe's charge for the tree on Washington Street was \$500 to take it out, leave the firewood, and grind out the stump; the charge for the other tree would be \$800—a total of \$1,300. Mayor Shanahan asked Mr. Smith if we could have Mr. Rowe also trim up that tree by the banner on Tontogany Creek Road while he is in town for the other trees. Mr. Smith responded that he would text Mr. Rowe about that. Councilman Fox suggested that we go ahead and tell Mr. Rowe to do the work on the two trees for which he gave us an estimate, since the prices are very fair. Others agreed. Councilman Fox made a motion to accept Abe Rowe's quote of \$1,300 for the two trees. Councilman Smith seconded this motion. All were in favor; motion carried.

DRAINS and SEWERS: Nothing to report.

CITY HALL and PARKS: Mayor Shanahan asked Councilwoman Mehring if she had a conversation with Ron Hafner about some veteran banners for his family. Ms. Mehring answered that she had done so. The mayor commented that we had six total and we never got anything from Howard Williams and another name on the list. The mayor said he thought Ron Hafner was suggesting his father, two brothers, and another brother named John, which would be four veterans. After talking with Councilwoman Mehring, Mr. Hafner had started collecting photos. The mayor commented that these four would put us a couple of banners over the number we normally do. He asked if anyone had a problem with doing two extra banners, considering that we will also be turning them in for reimbursement. Members voiced no problem with doing so. Councilwoman Mackey suggested just scratching Howard Williams from the list, since we can't get a picture and information for him.

Mayor Shanahan reported that we had a gentleman interested in finding out more information on the village administrator position. The mayor said he responded to him today. He added that the gentleman was asking about the job description, salary, and benefits, so the mayor said he asked him for a date when they could get together for an informal conversation. Based on the results of that conversation, if he wanted to further pursue the position, the mayor said we would set up a more formal interview as we have done in the past, attended by the mayor himself, Councilwoman Mackey, and Fiscal Officer Harnishfeger. The mayor said he is just waiting on the gentleman to respond.

Mayor Shanahan reported that he had an informal conversation today with a couple of residents who would be interested in hearing about the open council seat that will be vacated by Lincoln Fox at the end of the year. The mayor commented that, if it goes that route, we will just let the election go without the seat being on the ballot, and then appoint a new person to fill the seat in January. Councilman Bergfeld added that we might need to find a replacement for himself too, since baseball conflicts with his attendance at meetings. The mayor responded that that is a topic that will come up in November, whether or not Monday night is the best night for us to hold council meetings, considering also that holidays often fall on a Monday. He said the other consideration he was thinking about was if we might want to go down to just one meeting a month in the summertime, as a creative way to get us through the summer months. Mr. Bergfeld commented that we definitely need two meetings a month toward the end of the year for budgets and other things.

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Mayor Shanahan reported that with the 150th Committee he has been making a lot of requests for sponsorships and donations, trying to get funding to support what we are doing. He said he received a call from Christmas Lights 419, the company that does our Christmas tree lights, asking if we were good to partner up again for that this year. During the conversation he mentioned to the gentleman that it is our 150th Celebration and we have been teaming up with some companies for activities we are doing and getting sponsorships and donations to help offset the costs. He said he asked the gentleman if their Christmas lights could be sponsored this year or if he could offer a discount. The gentleman responded that they could definitely do something for Tontogany's 150th. He said he could, right off the bat, give fifty percent off of the price, reducing the price from \$3,750 down to \$1,875. On top of that, more for fun and to help their company out, for every 5-star Google review they receive from now until October 1st, he will take another five percent off of our cost, with no cap (anyone who writes a 5-star Google review can add a photo of a tree or use the words "Christmas light installers" and he will take an extra five percent off). The mayor said he sent that message to the Christmas Tree Committee and, by the time he came to this meeting, half of them had already put in a 5-star review. The mayor said he would text the link to all of the council members, so they can help with more 5-star reviews if they wish. The mayor told members that this, of course, is just a one-time discount; next year we will have to pay full price again for the tree lighting. He added that we will do social media posts and try to get as many people as possible to do the 5-star Google reviews. Councilman Smith commented that Christmas Lights 419 will get a lot of good out of the Google reviews for their business.

Councilman Fox pointed out that there are bricks or sections of bricks at the school that are sponsored by a certain family or company that donated money. Mr. Fox told members that he thinks we kind of have an opportunity to do something like that on the new sign that was built by the Eagle Scout at Centennial Park. He said he didn't know how feasible it would be to put people's names on the bricks and use the donation for the 150th. He said it might be too late in the game to do that now. Mayor Shanahan responded that he knew that the Legion is currently doing a military-related brick sale and he would hate to pull money away from them; however, there may be an opportunity for us in the future.

Councilman Smith reported that GSI came out and applied bare ground herbicide for us. He said he thought they did fertilizer today too, but we haven't seen the bill yet for that. Because of where we are, our schedule is different from some places. A lot of places are scheduled for spring, summer, and fall, but we are just scheduled for summer and fall.

Councilman Neal reminded members that he had asked at the last meeting about getting the flag pole painted. Councilman Smith responded that he hadn't heard anything about it yet. Mayor Shanahan told members that he is now on the board for the Northwest Ohio Mayor and Managers Association (NOMMA), so he has access to mayors and managers of fifteen counties, and he can ask if anyone in the Wood County area has a bucket truck that we could use for painting our flag pole. Or he can use that network to ask what their experience is with various things.

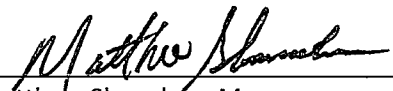
Councilman Fox reminded members that we had someone from TMACOG visit us a couple of years ago and talk to us about grant money having to do with roads. He said he was thinking of reaching out to them to see if there might be any possibility for funding for one or two commercial-style electric chargers for Tontogany. He said he thought it might be an opportunity to help people out who are coming and going from Tontogany, make us more recognizable, and put us on the route. The mayor commented that he is not an electric car fan. Mr. Fox responded that, if not now, maybe there would be a need for it down the road five or ten years. He suggested that, if TMACOG would pay for it, it would be good for us to get on their list. The mayor commented that they put one in where he works and it has caused a lot of fights. Mr. Fox said he thought it might be helpful for out-of-town people coming to games. Councilman Smith commented that we don't get much out of TMACOG, so, if they are willing to pay for it, we might as well get something out of them.

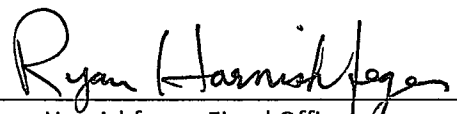
Mayor Shanahan pointed out that, on the RSVP invitations to the premiere of the *Tontogany 150th Celebration Documentary*, it asks for you to text Hannah and let her know how many people will be joining you, so we can get the right amount of ice cream and goodies. The mayor commented that, after

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watching the final cut of the video, with the voice-over that he did, we are pretty happy with it. Councilwoman Mackey pointed out that this premiere showing is by invitation only. The mayor agreed and stated who was invited: everyone who was in the video and their family members; village council members; the fiscal officer; the utilities superintendent/zoning inspector; anyone on the village payroll; township trustees; the 150th Committee; and the Murder Mystery Committee. Anyone else will have to wait until Togany Fest when we run it on a loop in the hall, during the pancake breakfast and throughout the day. The mayor said that it would ultimately end up on a YouTube page.

With nothing further to discuss, Mayor Shanahan declared the meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.


Matthew Shanahan, Mayor


Ryan Harnishfeger, Fiscal Officer